

Family Protection Ministries



ADVOCACY FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES

Becoming an Effective Advocate for Private Home Education

Family Protection Ministries

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www.fpmca.org

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A Note from FPM's Executive Director

This handbook was written to introduce you to simple, basic steps you can take to help prevent the loss of your freedoms. As you read through this handbook you will learn about our need for representation as homeschoolers, and how to contact your state legislators, and build relationships with them. You will see that being involved in the political process can be an exciting learning experience for the entire family.

Most education and family policy is formed at the state (versus national) level. Therefore, you should put most of your efforts toward contacting your State Assembly Member and State Senator. As you get to know your state legislators, they will begin to know your views and understand you. Many legislators hold stereotyped views of private home educators and their families. By prayerfully following these guidelines, you can begin to change their preconceptions. Their association with you will temper their judgements on legislative matters.

The most important thing is to begin communicating in some way. It is your responsibility, and your duty, to let your legislator hear from you. If you are not making your views known to your legislator, how will he represent you? You may be sure that your legislators are hearing from others with an opposing view!

"Blessed are they who observe
justice, who do righteousness
at all times!

Psalms 106:3

We are praying for you as you help advocate for private homeschooling freedom in California! Thank you for being a vital part of this mission.



Nathan B. Pierce
Executive Director



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INTRODUCTION

Representing Private Homeschoolers

Home educators in California are blessed to have a full-time organization serving as their eyes and ears in the State Legislature. In 1986 Roy Hanson began this important work by founding Family Protection Ministries (FPM). Nathan Pierce now serves as FPM's Executive Director, and through his vigilant work, we have a say in the direction taken by our state legislators!

There is an essential need for direct communication and representation with the State Legislature in Sacramento. Nathan has over 20 years of experience at the Capitol, making him uniquely qualified to do what must be done in order to defend Biblical family and defeat the unending challenges to our parental rights.

Nathan attends committee hearings (testifying as needed), works with other organizations, meets with legislators and their staff, and builds relationships with lobbyists. In addition, Nathan works with attorneys and education officials, tracking court cases and monitoring any actions that may affect home education. His staff in the FPM office diligently monitors current legislation, searching for any bills that pose a threat to private home education and Biblical family values.

California does not have a specific law that identifies and defines a “homeschool.” Rather, California homeschools operate as private schools, and currently enjoy more freedom than most states that have specific home education legislation.

Each year, we face attacks on our current level of home education freedom. Some of these attacks are intentional—adding regulations and restrictions. Some come as unintended consequences from a well-intentioned, but uninformed, legislator. In the future, we could face a more direct assault through an attempt to make private home education illegal.

Our best defense is to prepare carefully, before such a direct attack happens. God has given you the opportunity to help build positive attitudes toward private home education. Making personal contact with our legislators allows them to know us as normal, upstanding citizens simply trying to raise our families. FPM is here to guide you in this effort.

FPM is 100% donor-funded and can only continue this important work as the home educators who benefit directly from their efforts provide financial support. We need to find families, homeschool groups, private school satellite programs, and churches that will commit to giving \$20, \$50, \$100, or more each month toward the support of this one-of-a-kind ministry.

Our basic freedoms are at great risk. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this work and supporting FPM on a regular basis. Your gift is tax

deductible. For more information, or to donate, please use the following methods:

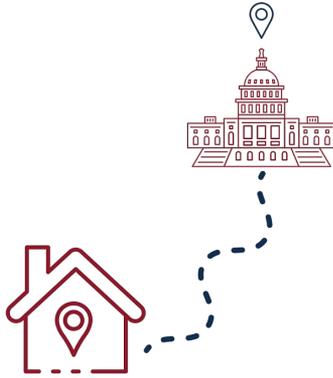
Visit www.fpmca.org or scan the QR code below. You can also call our office at 916-786-3523 or send a contribution by mail. Checks may be written to Family Protection Ministries and sent to: P.O. Box 730, Lincoln, CA 95648-0730.



PART 1



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



Advocacy From Home—Yes, You Can Do It!

There is a constant onslaught of proposed bills threatening homeschool freedoms in California. We cannot fight all these bills alone. That is why we need you to partner with us in advocating for homeschool freedom. **We need families ready and willing to advocate and defend our private homeschooling freedoms.**

An individual homeschool family's relationships with their state legislators and their staff is one of the **biggest factors** in getting bad laws stopped when it comes to our homeschool freedoms. **We have developed a program to train you in how to build relationships with your legislators.**

Defending private homeschooling isn't something any one person, or even one organization, like FPM or CHEA (Christian Home Educators

Association of California), can do on their own. You can help preserve our freedoms by contacting your state legislators and personally delivering information about private homeschooling to their district offices.

During your initial visit, you can present your legislator with a *Homeschool Information* packet. This packet is designed for legislators and is available to you through participation in FPM's ***Advocacy from Home (AFH)*** program.

For more information about participating in Advocacy from Home, getting training, setting up a district office visit, and obtaining a *Homeschool Information* packet to give to your legislator, please visit www.fpmca.org/advocacyfromhome.

Steps to Make a Positive Difference!

Call: Sign up for our Email Alerts and get notified on when to call your state representatives. Sign up for emails at www.fpmca.org/getemails.

Watch: Our Advocacy from Home Training Videos will help educate you on the legislative process and how to get involved in homeschool advocacy! Watch them today at www.fpmca.org/advmenu.



Write: Compose a letter to your state legislators introducing yourself as a private homeschooler or about a specific bill.

Meet: Set up a short meeting, in-person or virtually, with your state representatives.

Get Started Today!

If you are interested in joining our mission, let us know at www.fpmca.org/afhapp. We will supply you with what you need to build relationships with your legislators.



DELIVERING A *HOMESCHOOL INFORMATION PACKET*

The *Homeschool Information* packet has been designed as a resource tool for your state legislator and gives an introduction to private home education. The packet is prepared by Private & Home Educators of California, a program of Family Protection Ministries.

What or Who is PHE? When we go to Capitol Day and share information about homeschooling with Legislators and their staff, we are a collection of privately homeschooling families from a range of backgrounds. Together we make up a group of private home educators, some of which are involved to some degree with private campus schools. In like manner, Nathan Pierce represents homeschool families at the Capitol on a range of issues that impact private homeschooling and traditional campus private schools. The program under which this is done is Private & Home Educators of California (PHE). This is why you may notice the PHE logo on our Legislator Packets

and official letterhead, as well as in legislative documentation such as committee analyses. PHE operates at the Capitol on behalf of home-based and campus-based private schools and encompasses a large range of homeschool families, private schools, and homeschool groups and organizations.

The following resource documents are included in the packet:

1. ***Homeschooling in California – Legal Requirements***, prepared by Private & Home Educators of California in consultation with Home School Legal Defense Association, provides current information on how to homeschool in California
2. ***Why We Don't Need New Homeschool Legislation***, prepared by PHE and details the reasons why new regulations on private homeschooling are unnecessary
3. ***Homeschooling in California and Nationwide: Research Facts and Other Important Concepts***, prepared by Dr. Brian Ray of the National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI)
4. ***What is Homeschooling?*** by HSLDA Action, provides national statistics as well as information about policy and current regulation
5. ***NHERI Informational Document*** provides additional statistics regarding religion, ethnicity, taxpayer costs and achievement test results
6. ***Nathan Pierce's Business Card***, for legislators and their staff to get in contact with Nathan Pierce, PHE's Policy Director

The packet also contains the following list of FAQ's that are very helpful:

- **How many homeschoolers are in California?** There was an estimate of 616,000-753,000 homeschool students in California in the spring of 2021. Broken down by district: 17,500 per Senate District; 8,750 per Assembly District.
- **Why do people choose homeschooling?** There are many reasons, including a desire to give their child more flexibility to shape their learning experience, safety, and more one-on-one attention.
- **What about academic performance?** Studies show excellent academic achievement among homeschool students.
- **How do homeschoolers perform in the world?** Whether in vocations, academics, social growth, or service, homeschooled graduates and homeschooling students tend to be more active in their communities than the average citizen.
- **What about race, income and religious affiliation?** There is broad diversity among homeschoolers.

You already know homeschooling works! These resources are designed to communicate that fact in the language and format that legislators and policy makers understand. You can confidently use the information in the packet as a springboard for a conversation with your legislator. The statistics and studies in the packet will back up all the good things you know to be true about private home education!



GET STARTED IN ADVOCACY TODAY

Scan this QR code or visit www.fpmca.org/advmenu to access training videos that will teach you about finding your legislators, legislators' district offices and capitol offices, tracking bills, the legislative process, how to contact and meet with your legislator, and more!

Watch our Advocacy from Home Training Videos to get started. They are available on our website at www.fpmca.org/advmenu or by scanning the QR code.

To supplement these training videos, FPM has compiled an array of resources that can be accessed through our website at www.fpmca.org under the dropdown menu "Get Involved." Click "Advocacy from Home Resources" or go to www.fpmca.org/afh21resources.





Meeting With Legislators—It’s Less Scary Than You Think!

Maintaining positive relationships with our representatives is key. One of the most effective ways to get to know your legislator is through a personal visit to his district office.

In the following sections, we will teach you about district offices and how to directly contact, prepare for, and meet your legislator through their district office. In addition to being an effective strategy for the preservation of our freedoms, a district office visit is an amazing opportunity for young people to learn about their government. Make it a field trip and bring your private homeschooling group and friends!



CAPITOL OFFICE VISITS VS. DISTRICT OFFICE VISITS

Why are district office visits important? Why is it not enough to just visit legislators at their capitol offices in Sacramento?

It is important that each legislator be visited in their district office by someone who lives in their district. The legislator represents that visitor, so it is that visitor the legislator is working to please when in their district office. **The purpose of the district office visit is to establish a good relationship and present a positive image of homeschooling should the issue of new regulations for home education come up in the future.** We need to make sure that the district office of every California state legislator is visited by homeschool families or homeschool advocates -- people who care about the freedom to homeschool privately.

Consider the differences between a legislator's capitol office and district office.

The Capitol: The Capitol building is a busy place. It houses all 120 California state legislators' offices, committee hearing rooms, and the chambers where the State Senate and State Assembly debate the great issues of the day and hold important votes.

It is important to visit these Capitol offices to provide information about homeschooling to the legislators and to the members of their staff who help form the policies of the legislators.

At their Capitol offices, legislators have their attention spread very thin. Their days are often filled with committee hearings, floor sessions, and short, 15-minute meetings from 7am to 7pm or later.

Typically, legislators spend Monday through Thursday at their Capitol office in Sacramento and then Friday through Sunday in their district.

Meeting the Legislator at the Capitol: If business or vacation brings you to Sacramento, schedule an appointment as far in advance as possible to meet with your legislator, and his legislative aide, in his Capitol office.

If you are in Sacramento between the months of January and August, you may have the opportunity to watch policy committee hearings at the Capitol, especially in the Assembly. These hearings may appear, and often are, confusing, arbitrary, and abrupt. People are often flown in to testify only to find out, at the last minute, that the hearing has been postponed. This will give you insight into the ways in which a battle may be won or lost. Many battles are won or lost before the hearing takes place.

The District: In contrast, the district office is calmer and more relaxed. A legislator will have more time there to discuss issues specific to the district and to really connect with the people of the district that he or she represents.

At the district office, a legislator is focused on the needs of the district and what the issues are at home. He is more likely to be sensitive to the

issues brought by constituents because, more likely than not, he will be running for reelection in the future.

It is because of this contrast between these two settings that we see it as critical for both offices to receive visits from private homeschool families and advocates.

Why you? Legislators are much more likely to listen to and care about someone who they represent and who will be able to vote for (or against) them in the next election.

One benefit of visiting a district office is that it is much closer to home for many California residents. This makes it much easier and takes less time and money than coming to Sacramento to visit a Capitol office.

Our *Advocacy from Home* program and *Homeschool Information* legislator packets make visiting your legislator simple. To learn more about participating in Advocacy from Home, visit our site at www.fpmca.org/advocacyfromhome.



PERSONAL MEETINGS AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE

Finding Your Legislator: California is divided into 40 Senate districts and 80 Assembly districts. Each Senator and Assemblymember represent one district. The senate and assembly districts overlap and their numbers do not correspond to each other at all.

If you do not know who your legislators are, you can visit our website at www.fpmca.org/myrep. The website it leads to will enable you to determine who your representatives are and provide you with links for their websites. Keep in mind that there are **two** people who represent you: a state senator and an assembly member. It is beneficial to contact both. From their websites, you will be able to find information about their district offices (legislators operate one or more offices within their district), making contact by phone, email, or by mail, and how your legislator is handling any kind of meetings.

The Initial Call to the District Office: Call their district office and ask for an appointment. Mention how many people will be included in the visit. When making your appointment, make sure you are kind and considerate to the staffer handling the call. Thank them for their service and tell them you are a constituent in their district raising awareness about private homeschooling. Do not be discouraged if the legislator is not available. Making an appointment with the legislator's staff is also valuable since legislative aides can be very influential in forming policy and voting decisions.

If you get the opportunity to meet your legislator or a staffer in person, it is important that you are conscious and accommodating of the legislator's or staffer's meeting preferences (such as mask wearing). If you are not prepared to follow their parameters, is it best to use an alternative method of contact.

Preparing for Your Meeting: If your children are able to behave in a respectful manner and sit quietly through a meeting, take them with you. It is advantageous to familiarize your children with the nature of the visit beforehand. We strongly suggest that children who attend are mature and friendly, good communicators (use eye contact, clear speech, good manners), dressed nicely, prepared ahead of time for possible questions related to homeschooling, and are doing reasonably well in the traditional academic areas.

Your clothing and general appearance give a first, and often lasting, impression. The appropriate attire for the meeting is a suit and tie for men and a suit or dress for women. If you have a business suit, this is the time to wear it; however, don't let not having a suit deter you. Just make an effort to dress appropriately for a business meeting in your locale.

Please do not wear clothing that identifies you as part of a group not related to homeschooling. While we support the efforts of many ministries

and organizations, this meeting with your legislator is intended to focus on private homeschooling. This is not the time for wearing logo or slogan T-shirts (even those that are patriotic). Shorts, sandals and flip-flops are also not appropriate. Please dress for a business meeting.

It is important for you to be punctual. Arrive at least ten minutes early and allow for plenty of waiting time. Legislators have extremely busy schedules.

Talking points: During your visit with your legislator, express your gratitude for the work he is doing. Mention that you want the best quality education for your child and that you are teaching your child at home. Identify yourself as a constituent from their district and mention any position in a community organization, school, etc. you hold, if applicable.

Please do not bring up other issues or press him on his position about home education during your first contact. Be polite, friendly, positive, and sure of your facts. Be a good listener. Don't be confrontational or argumentative.

In your communications, it would be best, if possible, to focus on homeschooling over the years, and not on the bubble of homeschooling during COVID-19. Step back from current circumstances and talk about how homeschooling, especially social interactions, has historically worked for your family.

Please do not discuss issues unrelated to home education during this meeting. While there are many important issues confronting us today, we do not want legislators to connect homeschooling with other causes. Opinions concerning topics like abortion, gun control, prayer in public schools, etc. should be expressed at another time. **The focus of the meeting should be about the benefits of private home education.**

Don't feel as if you must answer every question on the spot. If you are not sure of an answer, tell him you will get back to him. This may be a great

opportunity for another contact. Don't panic if you are barraged with questions. This shows that you have his interest. Answering questions, even hostile ones, presents an opportunity to articulate your position.

If your children accompany you, prepare them with this same advice. In addition, you may want to practice some typical homeschool questions with your children so they will have time to think about their answers. For example, "What grade are you in?", "What's your favorite subject in school?", "Do you like homeschooling?", "What does your day at home look like?", or "Do you have friends that you spend time with?".

It is best to speak for your family only, not for homeschoolers everywhere. Try not to feel overwhelmed. Be relaxed and confident. Your manner, as well as the information you present, makes an impression. Be observant as you speak with your legislator. Notice how he is responding. Is he listening or is he preoccupied and rushed?

Keep your visit short. The standard constituent appointment is 10-15 minutes. If the legislator stands or a staff person enters, that is your signal that it is time to leave. Be respectful of your legislator's time and end the meeting at its scheduled time. However, if the legislator is pursuing questions and taking the lead in having you stay longer, you are welcome to do so.

If possible, leave with the opportunity to return. Mention something you did not already discuss, and that you would enjoy the opportunity to talk again. Follow up your meeting with a letter, including a note of thanks for the visit.

Frequently Asked Questions: Your legislator or his aide will most likely ask questions about home education. Here are questions that might be asked and ideas for how to respond. Other frequently asked questions and ideas for answering them can be found on our website at www.fpmca.org/afh21resources.

1. “Are you a part of a homeschool group?”

You may mention a homeschool group you are a part of as well as any leadership positions you hold in the group.

2. How many home educators are in my district?

A recent U.S. Department of Education survey estimates that approximately 3.4% of all school-aged children in America are privately home educated. In the spring of 2021, there were an estimated 616,000-735,000 home-based private school students in California. There are approximately 17,500 homeschoolers in each Senator’s district, and approximately 8,750 homeschoolers in each Assembly member’s district. Let your legislators know that there are private homeschooling families in their district that are thriving!

3. “Do you support school choice or school vouchers?”

You could say something like “I am in favor of school choice in that I believe parents should have the option of choosing where their children are educated. But I’m opposed to the voucher system because I am opposed to any taxpayer funding of private education.” We want our legislators to know that we are **not** looking for money or anything else from the government.

4. When You Can’t Answer a Question

It is ok if they ask you a question that you do not know the answer to. You can either tell them you will investigate their question and get back to them, or you can refer them to our office at 916-415-9480 or give them our email: contact@pheofca.org



FOLLOWING UP YOUR MEETING

Send a follow-up letter or a neatly written thank you card within a week or so after your meeting. Keep the letter brief and thank your legislator for his time. Do not bring up issues or request votes on bills in the follow-up letter.

If you were unable to answer a particular question at the meeting, or if you were asked for additional information, you may include it in your follow-up letter. Be sure that any item sent is legible, especially if it is a copy of an original document or article. Each item should be properly labeled with title, source, and date. Check your letter for neatness, spelling, and grammar. See an example follow-up letter on the next page.

Sample Letter to Follow Up Your Meeting

Mr. & Mrs. John Doe
12345 Maple Avenue
Bell, California 67890
July 8, 2019

The Honorable Bill Brown
California State Assembly [or California State Senate]
State Capitol, Room [####]
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assembly Member Brown, [or Dear Senator Brown,]

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us last Thursday afternoon. We enjoyed having the opportunity to share our thoughts about private home education.

In answer to your question about the growth of homeschooling, we have checked with Private & Home Educators for recent statistics. As a conservative estimate, the US Department of Education estimated that there were between 173,000 and 212,000 K-12 home-educated children in California in the spring of 2016. The National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI) also did a careful analysis and estimated more California homeschoolers than the USDE, at about 235,000 to 285,000 students. There are about 2.3 million home-educated students in the United States (as of Spring 2016), and it appears that the homeschool population continues to grow at an estimated 2% to 8% per annum.

Thank you again for your interest in this issue.

Sincerely, John Doe



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AFTER YOUR FIRST MEETING

If you have identified a legislator who recognizes and supports the principles of sound government, including the right of parents to direct their children's education, he needs notes of encouragement. Even if he's not your own district's representative, your encouragement is still needed. Further, you should try to build a positive relationship with him and familiarize him with private homeschooling.

Do not overlook the relationship with your legislator's staff. The work in a legislator's office is often stressful and busy. Be courteous and polite to every staff member you speak to. When you call your legislator's office, if you speak to an aide rather than to the legislator, jot down the name of the aide. If he has been helpful in the past, you may want to ask to speak directly to the aide in the future. A good relationship with a legislative aide

will nearly always lead to a good relationship with the legislator when you do get the chance to meet or talk personally with him.

As your relationship with legislators develop, follow-up with further contacts. Consider some of these excellent suggestions from attorney Jerry Crow:

1. Have a Sunday afternoon barbecue and invite your elected Assembly Member or Senator. Arrange to have the press there. They may come long enough to talk with the host and perhaps pose for a picture by the press. (Note: If you have invited a candidate for office [as opposed to one already elected], do not include the press. This will prevent making enemies.)
2. If the weather is bad, consider something like hot cocoa and popcorn.
3. Remember their birthdays – both the husband's and the wife's. Send them a family photo.
4. Invite them over to a family dinner or lunch.
5. Send them a letter to let them know that you appreciate them, their service to our state and the freedom we have in California to educate our children at home.

Alternatively, you can build a relationship with your legislator by attending his community events, which can include town hall meetings, forums, open houses, community coffees, etc. This allows you to get to know him better while making your voice heard about issues that matter to you.



VIRTUAL MEETINGS

If an in-person meeting is not available, the next best thing may be a virtual meeting.

Your representative's website should provide guidelines for setting up a virtual meeting with your legislator. Once you have a virtual meeting scheduled you will want to set up a comfortable place in your home for the meeting. Ideally, you would want a blank wall or other non-distracting background. If you are comfortable and feel they can contribute in a positive way, your older children can participate with you.

It is wise to plan for younger children to be in a different room. Perhaps an older sibling or neighbor could take the kids out for a walk. If you have a dog that might bark, or another pet that might be otherwise distracting during the call, perhaps it could go on the walk as well!

As with an in-person meeting, follow up with a thank you card thanking your legislator for taking the time to meet with you.



PHONE CALLS

If you are not comfortable with a virtual meeting, making a phone call is the next best thing. Many of the guidelines that apply to a video call will work for a phone call as well. When you initially call the district office, ask for a phone call appointment with your legislator. Before your meeting, call the FPM office (916-786-3523) and arrange for a *Homeschool Information* packet to be sent to the district office you will be visiting. That way, your legislator will already be familiar with the idea of private home education when you have your conversation.

Used properly, a phone call to your legislator can be an effective way to communicate. Be well informed and prepared. Courtesy is always essential. Be brief and come right to the point.



WRITING LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION

Writing a letter of introduction about your homeschool to your legislator's district office is also a great way to help raise awareness about private homeschooling. A letter is also a tangible point of contact if a meeting or phone call will not work for your family.

You can find your senator and assembly member's mailing address and contact information here: www.findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov

In your letter, introduce yourself as one of the many privately home educating families living in their district. Tell them how your family has benefitted over the years from homeschooling. Share some memorable occasions that you have experienced over the years. For more ideas, see

the letter of introduction sample provided below or visit our website at www.fpmca.org/afh21resources.

It is usually best to send letters to the district office address of the legislator, unless the letter is regarding a bill needing action at the Capitol. Legislators must campaign at home and writing to the local office tells him you are there and are aware of issues.

Just as your clothing and general appearance create a first impression that is likely to become lasting, so the paper or stationery used in your letter produces an initial effect. Neatly handwritten letters on personal stationery get priority attention. Typed letters are also acceptable. Good quality, white paper is correct for either men or women. A light tint may also be used.

Please be clear and concise in your letter. Take advantage of spell check! You want your letter to be friendly and personal, but also professional.

Sample Letter of Introduction

Mr. & Mrs. John Doe
12345 Maple Avenue
Bell, California 67890
July 8, 2019

The Honorable Bill Brown
4321 Main Street
Districtville, California 95814

Dear Assembly Member Brown, [or Dear Senator Brown,]

I would like to introduce myself as a privately homeschooling parent living in your district. My family has been homeschooling for 12 years and have benefitted greatly from this method of educating our children. While covering all the basics, with homeschooling we have been able to adapt our curriculum to the strengths, weaknesses, and interests of our individual children. We have also enjoyed the freedom to visit many historical locations, such as Sutter's Mill and Mount Rushmore, as part of our studies.

Our typical daily schedule includes 3-4 hours at the kitchen table working together on core skills. The afternoons allow time for our older children to pursue areas of interest such as engineering or graphic design. We also participate in co-ops and study groups. Being educated at home has opened the door for many opportunities for our kids!

We appreciate how private home education is currently working in California and are not looking for any changes or any funding from the state. We want the best quality education for our children, and we feel that private home education provides it!

Both your district and Capitol offices should have received a packet from Private and Home Educators of California (PHE). We simply want to raise awareness about private home education. This packet provides some excellent research about homeschooling issues. There are about 2,500 private homeschoolers in each Assembly district and 5,000 homeschoolers in a Senate district. If you have questions about the information in the packet, you can contact PHE at contact@pheofca.org or call their office at 916-415-9480.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,
John Doe

PART 2



ADVOCACY FOR SPECIFIC ISSUES



WRITING LETTERS ON BILLS

When the time calls for it, we at Family Protection Ministries may ask you to write to your California legislators in the Senate and Assembly about specific bills.

Writing letters is a valuable way to communicate with your legislator. The letters you write are very significant. Compared to the U.S. Senators and U.S. Congressmen, State Senators and State Assembly Members don't hear from very many people. Many legislators believe that your one letter represents the view of 100 other voters who did not take the time to express their position. As few as five to ten letters from constituents can change a state legislator's position on a bill!

You can find your senator and assembly member's mailing address and contact information here: www.findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov

You can also find complete address and phone information for all California legislators at the California Secretary of State's website: www.sos.ca.gov/administration/california-roster. The California Roster also lists contact information for state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions.

When writing about legislation, try to keep these qualities in mind:

1. **Clearness** – Be upfront about the issue you are writing about and be sure to include the bill number, author(s), and the title, if it is short.
2. **Conciseness** – Focus on a few key points in your letter and address only one issue per letter. Usually 1-page maximum is appropriate, as your legislator has many letters to read.
3. **Calmness** – Be descriptive rather than emotional. Do not use threats, heated language, or sarcasm.
4. **Completeness** – Include every essential point and any of the “Opposition Points to Share with Legislators” in the Action Alert from FPM, if applicable.
5. **Courtesy** – Write with respect to their office and address them appropriately. With care, even an opposing point of view can be stated in a respectful way. Don't try to convert your legislator, but rather ask for his or her support.
6. **Correctness** – Be sure to check all your facts before mailing your letter. You don't need to sound like an expert on every political issue, but you can write as a concerned and intelligent constituent when you stick to the facts.
7. **Creativity** – Personalize the letter and take their personality into consideration, if possible. Avoid vagueness and overused expressions. You may mention how the bill would impact your family if you write it respectfully.

Before you begin writing, try to determine what you want to say—note every item that is essential. After composing the rough draft, check to make sure that you have included everything on your list. Remember, the purpose of your letter is to build a positive relationship and influence your legislator's vote.

The following pages contain sample letters for writing to a legislator about a specific bill.

Sample Support Letter Regarding a Specific Bill

Mr. & Mrs. John Doe
12345 Maple Avenue
Bell, California 67890
April 20th, 2020

The Honorable Bill Brown
California State Assembly [or California State Senate]
State Capitol, Room [####]
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 123, "The Pro-Family Education Act" by Assembly Member
Haste

Dear Assembly Member Brown: [or Dear Senator Brown:]

As your constituent and a registered voter, I am writing to express my support for AB 123. In the past your record of supporting family values has been outstanding.

Parents should retain the right to direct their own children's education. As a parent, I know that no one cares more about my children's education than I do. AB 123 will provide needed protection of family rights so that parents can do their job unhindered.

Please vote in favor of AB 123. Thank you for the great work you are doing to protect family rights.

Very truly yours,
John Doe

Sample Opposition Letter #1 Regarding a Specific Bill

Mr. & Mrs. John Doe
12345 Maple Avenue
Bell, California 67890
April 20th, 2020

The Honorable Bill Brown
California State Assembly [or California State Senate]
State Capitol, Room [####]
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 123, by Assembly Member Haste

Dear Assembly Member Brown: [or Dear Senator Brown:]

As your constituent and a registered voter, I am writing to express my concern about AB 123. I am concerned that this bill would harm, rather than help, those families who choose to educate their children privately at home. It is my understanding that the bill was introduced as a response to the horrific circumstances surrounding the Johnson family. While I agree that what happened was a tragedy and should be prevented from happening again, I do not believe that AB 123 is the way to accomplish that goal. I ask you to consider these points:

1. There is no credible evidence that privately homeschooled children are more susceptible to abuse than other children.
2. A recent study comparing the frequency of abuse/neglect of privately homeschooled children in low, medium, and high regulation states found that the frequency was the same in each

category, therefore more regulation will not impact the frequency of abuse/neglect in California.

3. The new terms to be added to the Private School Affidavit that will identify the types of private schools are undefined and lack well-understood meanings.

In the past, you have proven yourself to be a proponent of family values and individual rights. On that basis, I urge you to vote no on AB 123. Thank you for the work that you do for those of us in your district.

Sincerely,
John Doe

Sample Opposition Letter #2 Regarding a Specific Bill

Mr. & Mrs. John Doe
12345 Maple Avenue
Bell, California 67890
April 20th, 2020

The Honorable Bill Brown
California State Senate [or California State Assembly]
State Capitol, Room [####]
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: SB 456, by Senator Haste

Dear Senator Brown: [or Dear Assembly Member Brown:]

As your constituent and a registered voter, I am writing to express my concern about SB 456.

SB 456 would mandate that every child attend kindergarten before being admitted to the first grade. Parents who have chosen to delay their child's entrance into formal education, due to concern over what is best for their child's education, would be forced to choose between either: (a) starting their child's formal education before they feel it is best or (b) adding another year of school to the end of high school before they are eligible for graduation.

Under current law, parents who determine that their child would benefit by attending school at age 5 can already do so. According to the California Department of Education on March 16, 2012, 90-95% of all children of kindergarten age already attend public or private kindergarten. This bill would be burdensome to the parents of the remaining 5-10% of

“kindergarten-age” children who believe it is best for their child to wait another year and skip kindergarten before beginning formal education.

The Legislature has gone on record, acknowledging that there can be disadvantages to enrolling some children in kindergarten at age 5 and that parents must be allowed to consider these disadvantages in deciding whether to enroll their child. In Education Code Section 48000(b) the Legislature, aware of the disadvantages, specified that *the parent or guardian is given information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of this early admittance.*

Research demonstrates that while short-term gains in some areas are experienced by children beginning their formal education at age 5, research also indicates: (1) that these gains disappear in a few years and (2) that many children experience long-lasting adverse effects from being placed into kindergarten at age five.

SB 456 would place an inappropriate financial burden on parents who have determined that it is best for their child to wait an additional year (until age 6) to enroll their children in school and who plan to enroll their child in the first grade of a private school at their own expense. Under SB 456, parents who choose to delay their child’s entrance into formal education by forgoing kindergarten will be forced to undergo a time and financial penalty of adding a year of school before graduation. Enrollment into kindergarten prior to the first grade must remain optional for parents.

If there is a need to ensure continuity of education by enforcing regular attendance in public school kindergartens, the language proposed in AB 789 (as amended 4/29/12) would satisfactorily address this concern. AB 789 stated, *...if a child between the ages of 5 and 6 is enrolled in a public school kindergarten that accepts children under six years of age and attends the kindergarten for at least 30 days during the school year, the compulsory*

education law shall, after the 30th day of attendance, apply to the child and to that child's parents or guardian, as the case may be, without regard to the fact the child has not yet attained 6 years of age, unless the child is otherwise exempt as provided in this chapter.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John Doe



FOLLOWING UP YOUR LETTER

After writing to your legislator about an issue, it is important to follow up with a letter of thanks if he has voted in support of your view. While state legislators usually receive relatively few letters on any one issue, thank you letters for a job well done are very rare.

Keep your thank you note brief, simply mentioning the bill or issue that you previously wrote about, and thanking your legislator for his support. This act will let him know that you are aware of how he votes on issues, and will let him know you are appreciative of his work.

Sample Follow-Up Letter

Mr. & Mrs. John Doe
12345 Maple Avenue
Bell, California 67890
July 8, 2019

The Honorable Bill Brown
California State Assembly [or California State Senate]
State Capitol, Room [####]
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assembly Member Brown, [or Dear Senator Brown,]

Thank you for your vote in support of AB 123. I am delighted that the bill has passed and am grateful for your help in preserving family values.

Sincerely, John Doe



MAKING PHONE CALLS

If you are calling your legislator's capitol office about proposed legislation, **the best time would be just prior to a committee or floor vote**. Refer to the bill by its name and number and the issue it addresses. If you have written to your representative, or met with him, remind him of that previous contact.

Points to remember when calling on a bill:

1. If you already have a relationship, you may ask to speak directly with your elected representative.
2. If your legislator is not available, ask to speak to the legislative assistant handling the issue. Often the legislative aide is more knowledgeable about an issue or bill than his boss is. Also, it is usually the aides who control what letters the legislator actually reads or what issues he hears about. Developing a good relationship with an aide can be a valuable asset on key issues and will help to build the relationship with the legislator himself.

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3. If the aide is unavailable, leave your message with the person who took your call.
 4. You will be asked for your name, address, and/or phone number so that you can be identified as a constituent and your call can be tallied. They gather this kind of information to gain an idea of the extent of support and opposition. This information has never been used by legislators to track down people who oppose or support any legislation.
 5. It is usually best to identify yourself as a concerned citizen, not as a home educator.
 6. Give the number of the bill and the name of the author.
 7. Unless specifically instructed, do not reveal the source of your information. Information about legislation is public information. Naming one source may label you as simply part of a special interest group rather than as a concerned individual constituent.
 8. If you are calling a legislator who holds an opposing view, be prepared for challenges from his office. It is a common tactic for opponents of your view to try to make you or the organization that initiated your call look ignorant. It seems either rude or intimidating the first time this tactic is used on you, but this strategy is used daily in the political realm and should not be taken personally. Keep these things in mind:
 - Don't feel singled out; this is a routine tactic used to intimidate you, cause confusion or division, or sidestep the issue.
 - Keep calm and keep to the issue you are calling about.
 - Don't argue or let anyone put words in your mouth.
 - Don't be intimidated about not knowing all the details of the bill or law, or the agency it affects. You don't need to know every intricate detail to have a legitimate concern about the

bill. Most of the legislators themselves do not even read every bill before they vote on them; instead, they rely on prepared summaries that may leave out important details.

- Stand firm; citizens have the right to call their elected representative to express their views.



Getting Your Homeschool Group Involved in Advocacy

Another option is to invite your state legislator to be a guest at a homeschool event. Approve this with your group leader prior to an invitation. Call his district office to notify his staff and his scheduler of your intention, then, in letter form and in an email to his scheduler, invite him as a guest to your homeschool event. If you are in charge, let him know you are setting up this particular event. To find your legislator and his district office information, go to www.fpmca.org/myrep online.

What can I invite my legislator to? Other great opportunities where you can extend an invitation include the following:

1. Ask your legislator to help judge at your local homeschool debate club tournament.

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2. Invite them to attend and/or judge a science fair hosted by your homeschool group.
 3. Invite them to your homeschool group's orchestra performance or other arts events.
 4. Invite your legislator to your homeschool golf club tournament or other sporting event.
 5. Invite them to your homeschool conference.

In all invitations, note the exact date and time. For greater success, notify your legislator of your event as far in advance as possible. Two or three months in advance may be appropriate. Mention what a great opportunity this would be for your group to get to know him. Ask him to let you know if this is agreeable with him.

Be sure the legislator has the *Homeschool Information* packet at least a week in advance of the event. He may already have this from your previous district office visit with him, or you may need to request that we, FPM, mail one to you so that you can drop it off at his district office. Suggest that he might want to look at it before the event to acquaint himself with private home education issues. Give him Nathan Pierce's phone number and email address in case the legislator or his aide have questions on the legal status of private home education or related issues. (Nathan's contact info is located on his business card in the *Homeschool Information* packet.)

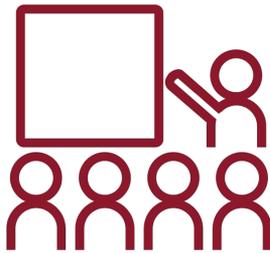
Once you confirm that the representative is coming to the homeschool event, brief the home educators that will be attending. We want to be friendly and warm; not confrontational. Remember that your group has invited the legislator to be your guest — treat him as you would a special guest in your home.

Never ask a legislator or candidate to author legislation on behalf of home educators. Even the most well-intentioned bills are amended

during the legislative process. Proposing a bill that would likely be controversial to some would be very unwise. Should such action ever become necessary, it would require the cooperative effort of not only the entire home education community in the state, but the support of other pro-family groups as well.

It is ten times easier to kill a bad bill than to pass a good one. If a situation ever arises in which it is desirable to have legislation offered on our behalf, we will have the best chance for success by working under the direction of FPM, who will be able to coordinate our efforts so that we can work in unity with the largest possible base of support.

Make sure to follow up your legislator's visit at your private homeschooling event with a thank-you card or letter from your group.



WRITING LETTERS AS A GROUP ABOUT A BILL

In the event that we, FPM, ask you to write to a specific committee or to your California legislators in the Senate and Assembly about specific bills, you may write a letter as a homeschool group. The following example can be a guide.

Sample Opposition Letter #3 Regarding a Specific Bill –

From a Group

To: Assembly Committee on Education
From: Foothills Private Home Educators
Date: April 15th, 2023
Subj.: SB 1234, as amended, Johnson—Private Schools: Home Schools:
Advisory Committee

Position: **OPPOSED as amended March 20th, 2021**

Please list Foothills Private Home Educators as OPPOSED to SB 1234 as amended March 20th, 2021.

There is no credible evidence that privately homeschooled children are more susceptible to abuse than other children¹ nor that their education is deficient.² The evidence is to the contrary. Therefore, there is no rational basis for removing private homeschools from being a type (or species) of private schools, which has been legally done for the last 40 years.

There is no credible evidence to justify establishing a committee to “investigate” private homeschooling in California for the purpose of submitting a report to the Board of Education. The requirement that the committee consider additional regulations for private homeschooling ignores the following: (1) numerous studies conclude that private homeschoolers’ scores on standardized tests, on average, are equal to, and in many cases, higher than their public-school counterparts³; (2) privately

¹ See attached Dr. Brian D. Ray, “The Relationship Between the Degree of State Regulation of Homeschooling and the Abuse of Homeschool Children (Students),” NHERI, March 15, 2018.

² See attached Dr. Brian D. Ray, “Homeschool SAT Scores for 2014 Higher Than National Average,” NHERI, June 7, 2016.

³ Dr. Brian D. Ray, “Research Facts on Homeschooling,” NHERI, January 13, 2018, <https://www.nheri.org/research-facts-on-homeschooling/>.

homeschooled students in low and moderately regulated states like California score just as well as their counterparts in highly regulated states like Pennsylvania and New York⁴; and (3) private homeschoolers score higher overall on the SAT than the national average of all college-bound seniors.⁵

The requirement that the committee consider health and safety inspections of private homeschoolers is offensive and can only be based on the Scott family case, which implies all private homeschoolers are capable of what the Scotts are charged with doing. This is an insult to all the law-abiding private homeschoolers who provide a loving, healthy, and safe learning environment for their children. There is no evidence-based empirical research to support the false assumption that more regulation will reduce the level of abuse among homeschool students.⁶

To require the committee to consider specific curriculum standards again demonstrates a complete distrust of parents who homeschool privately. The academic genius of private homeschooling lies in allowing parents to choose curriculum that meets the individual needs of each student.⁷

To require the committee to consider forcing parents to be certified teachers ignores the research that clearly reveals that the children of non-credentialed parents do as well or better on standardized achievement tests than the children of credentialed parents.⁸

⁴ See attached Dr. Brian D. Ray, *Home Education Reason and Research*, (Salem, OR: NHERI Publications, 2009), Pg. 4, Figs. 8a, 8b, and 9.

⁵ See attached "Homeschool SAT Scores for 2014 Higher Than National Average."

⁶ See attached "The Relationship Between the Degree of State Regulation of Homeschooling and the Abuse of Homeschool Children (Students)."

⁷ See attached *Home Education Reason and Research*, Pg. 4, Fig. 8a.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Pg. 3, Fig. 7.

It is for the above reasons, and others, we respectfully ask that you vote no on AB 2926.

Sincerely,

Mary Schultz

Director, Foothills Private Home Educators

(123) 456-7890 | contact@fphe.org

Who We Are: We are a group of parents who privately home educate our children in the Sacramento foothills area with over 50 member families. Our group has been in operation for over 10 years.



More Ways to Advocate

CONTACTS WITH CANDIDATES

Establishing contacts with candidates for office is perhaps the "golden opportunity" for establishing a good relationship with a legislator. This will prove valuable once he is elected.

Call or visit the website of your County Clerk's office or political party headquarters or read your local paper to find out who the candidates are in your district for State Assembly Member and State Senator. The County Registrar of Voters (its phone number should be on the internet) or your local public library will also have this information.

Find out when the candidates will be in your area. Search the internet, call the political party headquarters, or scan your local paper. If you are part of a homeschool group, you should coordinate any contacts with your homeschool group leader. Your group leader should evaluate, educate, and instruct you in the best approach. If he or she is not able, you may want to volunteer to help your group by leading in this area. Seek to be in the right place at the right time so you can get to know the different candidates.

To really determine where a candidate stands on the issues, a face-to-face contact is most desirable, if not essential. Listen carefully to his statements on different issues. He should give clear-cut answers and take a definite position on important issues.

Also consider what his chances are of being elected. At this stage, offer as little information to him as possible about yourself. If you decide not to support this candidate, it is still vital that you remain on the best terms possible with him.

When determining a candidate's attitude toward home education, the following question is suggested. It was drafted after consultation with several attorneys:

"Do you support the fundamental and prior legal right of parents to choose the place and manner of education for their children, including public schools, private schools or home education, without government interference?"

This question correctly "positions" our issue as one of "parental rights" which will gain more support than "home education" by itself would. Candidates tend to defend the first position they take. This is why it is so important to make friendly contacts with candidates for public office.

This is also why it is important to gently and prayerfully begin to educate him about private home education whenever possible. However, be careful to avoid rattling on so long that he stops listening. You may want

to bring a copy of PHE's *Homeschool Information* packet to him. Coordinate with FPM and/or your support group leader so that each candidate receives just one.

If you decide to offer your support in his campaign, represent only yourself. Avoid high profile public endorsements, pictures, etc., which will alert opposing candidates. In other words, keep a low profile. We want to make friends, not enemies. Should the opposition be successful, you will still want an open door of communication. Home educators wanting to publicly endorse a candidate should do so with another identity, such as a businessman, a citizen, or a member of another community organization (unrelated to home education).

When you offer your help, be faithful and follow through. Be dependable and available for any help requested. Campaign tasks may include registering voters, making phone calls, campaigning door-to-door, entering data, addressing cards, delivering campaign literature, placing campaign signs, soliciting volunteers, surveying by phone, hosting a meet and greet, and commenting on articles online about your candidate. All of these represent an opportunity to build an important relationship with the candidate. This is an incredible learning experience and an opportunity for the entire family to get involved in the political process.

It is not only important to do a good job, you must also let the candidate know that you are doing a good job. Tactfully remind him of your efforts and enthusiasm. Be self-assured, friendly, and business-like. You must be assertive; however, always use good manners. Shyness and nervousness may hinder this important effort. As your friendship develops you may become more casual, but always treat the candidate with the appropriate dignity.

If this candidate is elected, he will probably be appreciative of your efforts toward his success. Seize opportunities that may arise to enhance your relationship.



WRITING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

If you have an opinion on a bill regarding homeschooling, writing a letter to the editor (or op-ed) of your local newspaper is an effective way of reaching your local representatives (who pay attention to news in their district), and sharing your opinion with others.

Your letter does not need to address a specific bill (though you may reference one if you would like). You can make an impact by giving a broad, pro-homeschool and pro-status-quo message to the public from a first-hand perspective.

Many high schoolers can write an effective letter and, to add to the impact, say that they are currently homeschooled, even mentioning that they like being homeschooled!

Writing a letter to the editor is a little different than writing to your legislator, but the same principles apply.

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1. **Conditions** – Be sure to check the newspaper’s editorial and publication guidelines and policies before beginning the letter.
 2. **Clearness** – Be upfront about the issue and your concerns.
 3. **Conciseness** – There is not much space in a newspaper, so keep it brief and focused on one topic.
 4. **Calmness** – *Do* write confidently, but *do not* be disrespectful.
 5. **Completeness** – Mention all your points, opinions, and sign it.
 6. **Courtesy** – Write with respect to the editor and reader, as they are the ones who curate what goes in the newspaper.
 7. **Correctness** – Be sure to check all your facts (especially regarding a bill) before sending or emailing your letter.
 8. **Creativity** – Personalize the letter and mention how it would impact your family if a representative voted a certain way (if you are writing about a specific bill).

Sample Letter to the Editor:

California: Don't Punish All Homeschoolers For One Abuse Case

Like the editorial board of The Sacramento Bee and the rest of the world, we at Home School Legal Defense Association are horrified and outraged by the events reported out of Riverside County. We love home schooling and believe it is an excellent educational and lifestyle choice for millions of families and children. So we are especially grieved when this freedom we love is exploited for evil.

We are concerned, however, that this horrible incident – words fail to describe the depravity – may lead to an unwarranted backlash and violation of the civil rights of law-abiding, thriving home-schooling families.

The story out of Riverside has prompted The Sacramento Bee and others to adopt a frightening position, the degree of which can be demonstrated by a simple thought problem.

The simplified argument: This parent who claims to be home schooling has committed unspeakable acts. Therefore, we need to treat all parents who claim to be home schooling with suspicion and make them submit to periodic government inspections of their homes and children.

Now substitute “parent who claims to be home schooling” with “Muslim.”

This Muslim has committed unspeakable acts. Therefore, we need to treat all Muslims with suspicion and make them submit to periodic government inspections of their homes and children.

If this makes you uncomfortable, it should. It would be wrong to treat Muslims or any other group of people this way.

Parenthood, family life, educational choices and the sanctity of the home all implicate constitutional rights just as much as religion does. The U.S. Supreme Court has reaffirmed these constitutional principles many times. The high court said in 1979:

“That some parents ‘may at times be acting against the interests of their children’ ... creates a basis for caution, but it is hardly a reason to discard wholesale those pages of human experience that teach that parents generally do act in the child’s best interest. ... The statist notion that governmental power should supersede parental authority in all cases because some parents abuse and neglect children is repugnant to American tradition.”

The Sacramento Bee’s editorial concludes with a call for legislative hearings. If that should happen, HSLDA will be there – along with thousands of our friends – to make sure all sides of the issue are heard.

By James R. Mason Special to The Bee, January 25, 2018

Visit fpmca.org/lettertoeditor to see an additional sample.

PART 3



ADVOCACY AND THE KINGDOM

Let's Keep This Miracle Called Freedom

This article was originally written to encourage Christians to exercise their civic duty and vote. However, the principles described here also call us to actively engage in the culture around us.



First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Every Election Day millions of Americans cast their votes in local, state, and national races, as well as decide whether or not to approve statewide ballot initiatives.

As we have seen clearly over the last couple of years, the judges and school board members we elect are a critical component of shaping the policies that directly affect our local communities. There are typically several

judges and school board members on the Sacramento County ballot, as is likely the case for all ballots statewide. It is vital that Bible believing Christians step out and participate in this civic endeavor, which is both a duty and a privilege.

Some Christians understandably view politics as corrupt and dirty. That may be. Everything on this planet has been tainted by sin. However, government in and of itself is good. The Bible is clear that civil government was created by God, and we are all subject to it (Romans 13:1).

The Constitution, the founding document of our great nation, opens its preamble with these words: “We the People of the United States...” America was designed to be self-governing! We have a responsibility as citizens of this country to participate in civic affairs such as jury duty, paying taxes, obeying the law and voting. We may not always want to keep these obligations, but they are an integral part of our citizenship.

As Christians, we must be mindful of our citizenship in the Kingdom of God, while at the same time striving to be the best possible citizens of this earthly “kingdom” as well. We are called to be salt and light in this broken world. That cannot happen if we refuse to actively participate in our culture. We are to roll up our sleeves and do what we can as believers to make an impact for Christ. We certainly cannot expect nonbelievers to affect Biblical change!

We may be distressed by the things happening, and even being celebrated, in our culture. But how will those things ever begin to change for the better if Christians refuse to be part of the process? We dare not refuse to participate in this most fundamental vehicle of societal change and then bemoan the outcome!

On this side of heaven, there will never be a perfect candidate. That does not mean that we are released from our civic duty. We may find in a general election that neither candidate represents our position, nor stands for anything remotely resembling Biblical values. When faced with such a quandary, we must pray, research to the best of our ability, and make the best choice we can—sometimes choosing what seems to be the lesser of two evils. And then keep on praying for whomever wins office, that their decisions would be honoring to Christ.

Most of us have never seen our freedom truly threatened in our lifetime. However, we must never be cavalier about these matters! In his inaugural address for California governor in 1967, Ronald Reagan spoke these words: “Perhaps you and I have lived too long with this miracle to properly be appreciative. Freedom is a fragile thing and it’s never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by way of inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. And those in world history who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again.”

So what do you do when there is a dearth of good candidates and accusations of corruption abound? You pray for wisdom, research the candidates and issues to the best of your ability, and you vote!

Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. (Romans 13:7)

OUR MOST POWERFUL WEAPON

As believers, we are called to be people of prayer.

1 Timothy 2:1,2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

Mathew 5:43-46 You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?



We must never cease to pray to God that:

- We would please and glorify Him.
- We would find favor in the eyes of those in authority.
- We would fulfill our responsibilities.
- We, as parents, would have the ongoing freedom to care for and direct the education of our own children.
- Specific families in court, and their attorneys, would be successful.
- Our families, our churches, and our Nation would serve God with a whole heart.

PRAY FOR OUR POLITICAL LEADERS

Pray for them Thankfully
Pray for their Salvation
Pray for their Spiritual Maturity
Pray for them to have Humility
Pray for them to have Wisdom
Pray for them to have Courage
Pray for them to have Strength
Pray for their Campaign
Pray for those reaching out to them

These suggestions were taken from Frank Erb's excellent article "How to Pray for Political Leaders", which you can read on the next few pages or print out on our website (www.fpmca.org/frankerbseries). Frank Erb serves as a full-time Pastor to the California State Capitol. Find him online and sign up to receive updates at FrankErb.org.

How to Pray for Political Leaders

by Frank Erb

It is easy to criticize our government leaders and complain about their decisions. In fact, some of them make it extremely easy to do this. However, there is a better way. The Bible instructs us to pray for them instead.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

What should we pray? Here are many suggestions based on this passage and other scriptures as well as upon private conversations I have had with many lawmakers.

1. Pray for them Thankfully

1 Timothy 2:1 “entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings ... for kings and all who are in authority”

Political leaders are fallible people who do a difficult job that was instituted by God for our benefit (Romans 13:1). When the Apostle Paul wrote 1 Timothy, Nero, an evil and immoral man, was world leader. Even in a situation like this, Paul said we should pray thankfully, grateful to God for any good the government provides.

Legislator Quote: “I know firsthand that the halls and offices of the Capitol can be the loneliest places around.”

2. Pray for their Salvation

1 Timothy 2:4 “God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved ...”

Political leaders, like all people, need the forgiveness of sins and new life that comes through trusting in Jesus Christ. Imagine how much better an elected official leads when he or is closely connected to the Lord!

Legislator Quote: “All of us who have experienced inviting Christ into our lives know that this is what will put our state back on the right track faster and better than any other action.”

3. Pray for their Spiritual Maturity

1 Timothy 2:4 "... and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Spiritual maturity happens gradually after one has trusted in Christ and then humbly grows in their knowledge and application of God's word in every situation they face.

Legislator Quote: "The anchor of a Christ-centered Bible study has been a blessing to me and my colleagues in this sea of manmade turmoil."

4. Pray for them to have Humility

Micah 6:8 "He has told you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Political leaders have great power, deal with huge sums of money, work in opulent facilities, and are treated like royalty, all of which often leads to pride and arrogance that God hates. (Proverbs 16:18)

Legislator Quote: "When I was elected to political office, it was as if I suddenly became smarter, funnier, and better looking."

5. Pray for them to have Wisdom

1 Kings 3:9 "Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

Political leaders are regularly called upon to make difficult decisions that affect many people. They can only do this well with wisdom and discernment from above.

Legislator Quote: "With past decisions, we knew what to do and we just needed the boldness to do it. Now it is different because we are not even sure what to do."

6. Pray for them to have Courage

Psalm 27:14 "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage"

Political leaders are often expected to make compromises, and not doing so can cost them their careers. They need God to give them the courage to do the right thing no matter what the personal result.

Legislator Quote: "I don't like my decision, but how could I do otherwise and lose my opportunity to serve in elected office?"

7. Pray for them to have Strength

Luke 22:46 "pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Political leaders regularly encounter many strong temptations. Pray for them to have the strength to resist these traps that threaten to destroy their lives, families, and effectiveness as leaders.

Legislator Quote: "I have never seen or felt temptation as strong as it is here in the Capitol."

8. Pray for their Campaign

Daniel 2:21 "He removes kings and establishes kings."

Political leaders are constantly preparing for their next election. Pray for them to campaign truthfully, respectfully, and decently, and for God to guide the votes and outcome according to His will.

Legislator Quote: "Look at this new campaign mailer about me. It sure makes me sound good doesn't it?!"

9. Pray for Those Reaching out to Them

Romans 10:14 "How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?"

Political leaders are often isolated from others who might share the Good News of Jesus and the Word of God with them. Pray for the Lord to surround them with His people to speak to them about Him.

Legislator Quote: "Pastor Frank Erb allowed me to keep Jesus first and foremost in my heart and mind while at the Capitol."

Sometimes it might feel like praying is a waste of time when there are so many other things we could be doing. We should keep in mind though that humanity's best efforts to govern well have proven to be far from ideal. To persist in seeking worldly solutions to the immense problems of our day is

futile. It is time for us to do things God's way, and to seek the assistance and blessings that only He can provide.

Frank Erb serves as a full-time Pastor to the California State Capitol.

Find him online and sign up to receive updates at FrankErb.org.

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PART 4



RESOURCES



Finding Bills and Legislative Contact Information

FIND OUT THE STATUS OF A CALIFORNIA BILL

Go to leginfo.legislature.ca.gov. Search by bill number, author, or keyword.

If there is lack of clarity on a bill on leginfo.legislature.ca.gov, you can call the Assembly or Senate, depending on which house currently has the bill:

For bills currently located in the Assembly, contact the Assembly Chief Clerk: (916) 319-2856.

For bills currently located in the Senate, contact the Secretary of the Senate: (916) 651-4171.

If a bill is in committee, the committee itself may have the latest update on a bill. You can contact the committee by looking up the committee's contact information at the following websites:

Assembly Committees: www.assembly.ca.gov/committees

Senate Committees: www.senate.ca.gov/committees

CONTACTING YOUR CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICIALS

Find your state representatives and their contact info in the Assembly and Senate: findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov.

Roster of Assembly Members:

www.assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers

Roster of State Senators:

www.senate.ca.gov/senators

Write to your State Assembly Member:

The Honorable _____

1021 O Street, Suite [####]

Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Write to your State Senator:

The Honorable _____

1021 O Street, Suite [####]

Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Write to the California Governor:

The Honorable _____

1021 O Street, Suite 9000

Sacramento, CA 95814

Governor's Office: (916) 445-2841

CONTACTING A COMMITTEE

Committees: If you want to contact a committee that will hear a bill you are concerned about and find out the members of that committee, you can find contact information for each Assembly committee and Senate committee and the committee members at the following:

Assembly Committees: www.assembly.ca.gov/committees

Senate Committees: www.senate.ca.gov/committees

The Daily File (agenda): Find out when and where Assembly or Senate hearings are taking place by consulting the Daily File. The Daily File is the agenda for the Assembly and Senate and has important references such as committee hearing dates and room numbers, committee members, and committee contact information. The Daily File is updated every day.

Assembly Daily File: www.assembly.ca.gov/dailyfile

Senate Daily File: www.senate.ca.gov/dailyfile

OBTAIN A COPY OF A BILL

Print a copy of a bill: www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov. Search by bill number, author, or keyword.

Request a single, complimentary copy of a state bill by mail: The Legislative Bill Room: (916) 445-2323

OTHER RESOURCES

THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

California's Legislature is a book containing an in-depth introduction to the legislative process and state government of California. You can find it online at www.leginfo.ca.gov/califleg.html or order a hard copy for \$5 from the Legislative Bill Room at (916) 445-2323.

FIND OUT THE STATUS OF A FEDERAL BILL

Go to congress.gov and search by topic, keyword, author, or bill number, or contact your congressional representative or senator. You can also call (202) 225-1772 for help identifying a bill or law number.

CONTACTING YOUR FEDERAL OFFICIALS

To find and contact your congressional representative, visit www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative. For your congressional senator, visit senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm or call the Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121. Call the switchboard, give the operator your zip code, and he or she will connect you with your elected officials' office. You may find your congressional representatives' and senators' mailing information on these websites.

Write to the U.S. President:

The Honorable _____

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

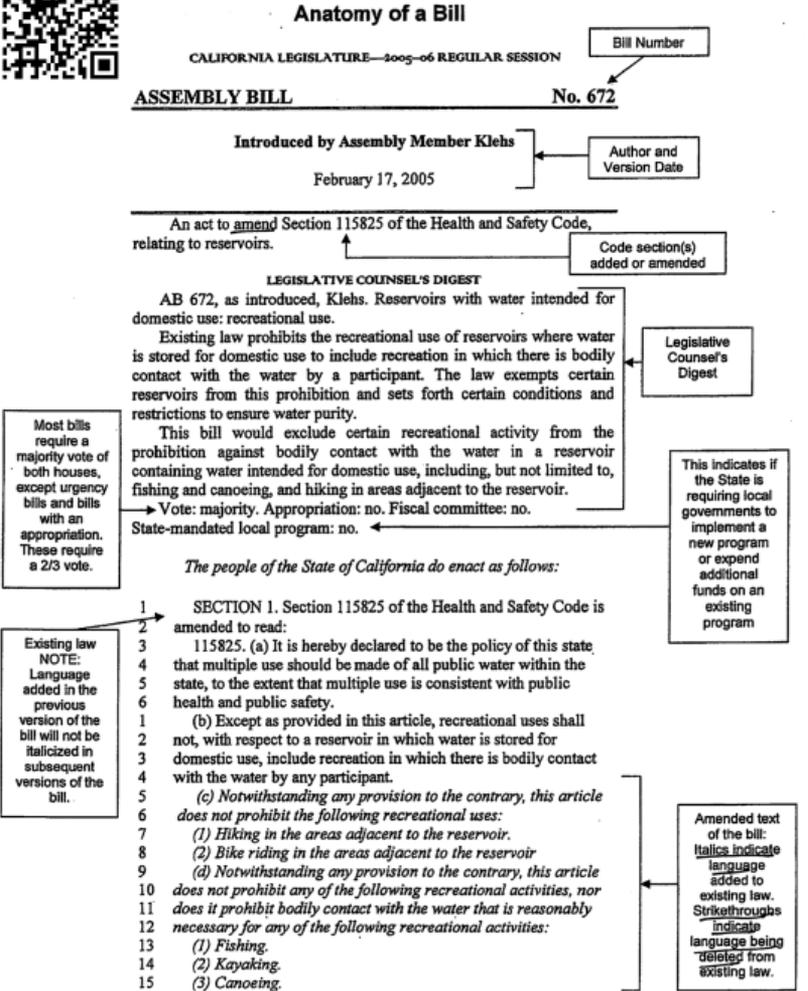
Washington, DC 20500

ANATOMY OF A BILL

Scan this QR Code or go to www.fpmca.org/anatomy-of-a-bill to download and print copies of helpful document.



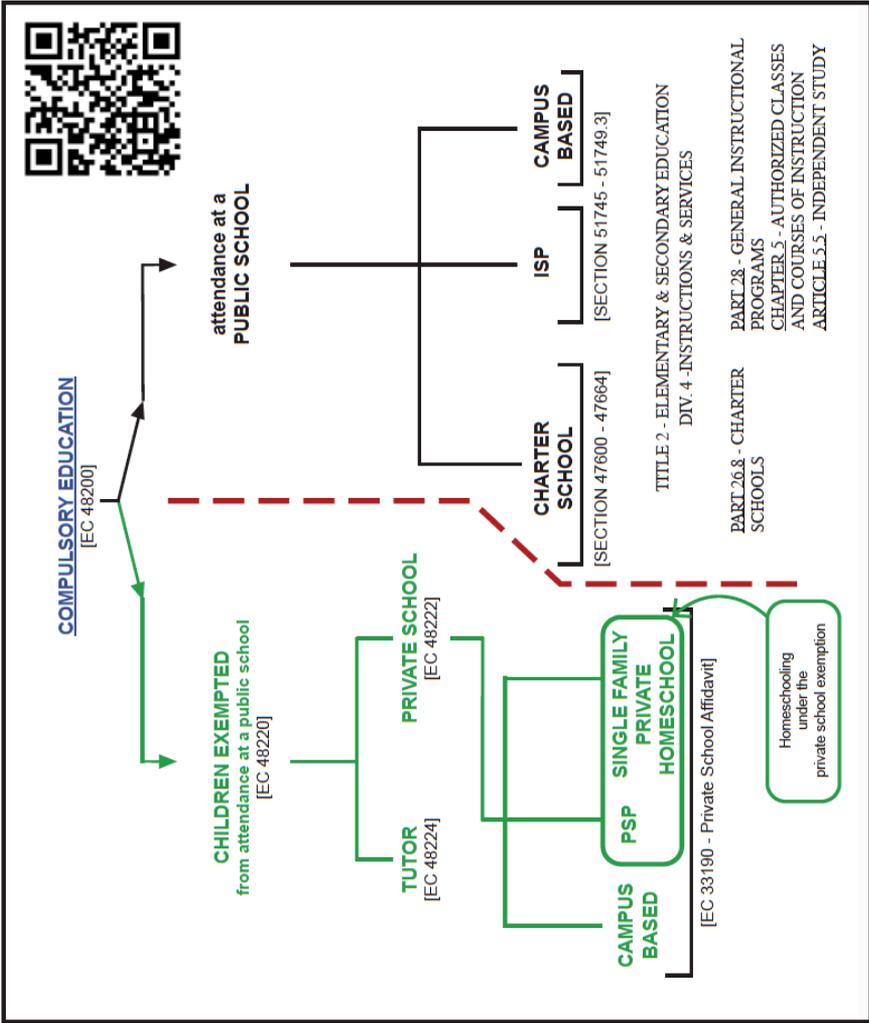
EXHIBIT I - 2



PRIVATE & PUBLIC EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA CHART

Visit www.fpmca.org/publicprivateedchart or scan the QR Code below to download and print additional copies of this chart.

Private/Public Education Chart - California Education Code



April 2022

EC Chart - Private & Home Educators of California

FAMILY PROTECTION ministries

Private and Public Education in California

Private homeschooling is a practice that functions under private school law in California. Private homeschooling does not fall under the authority of the public school system.

A single-family private homeschool is a private school established in a family's own home for their own children and files their own private school affidavit.

A Private School Satellite

Program (PSP) is a multi-family private school that files one private school affidavit, whether it be a private campus-based school or a private school composed entirely of homeschool families. To find a PSP near you, contact Christian Home Educators Association of California (CHEA) at www.cheafca.org.

Charter schools,

including those that offer

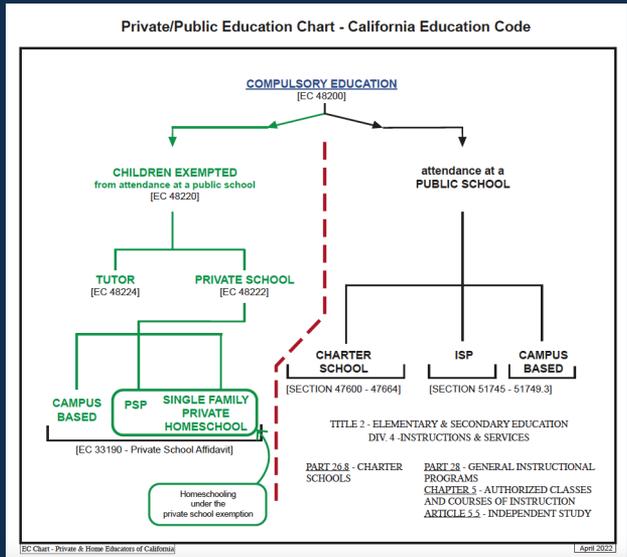
a homeschool option, function as public schools under the control of the public school system.

An Independent Study Program (ISP) is a program in which education is required to be provided by a public school and supervised by a certified teacher employed by the public school.

If you have further questions about the legality of private homeschooling, we recommend that you contact Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA). HSLDA is the very best resource for all legal and regulation issues and questions related to private home education.

JOIN
HSLDA!

You can contact
HSLDA at
(540) 338-5600 or
at www.hslda.org



FAMILY PROTECTION ministries

A Single-Family Private Homeschool

ADVANTAGES

Parents are in total control of child's education.

DISADVANTAGES

Parents may feel need for some accountability.



PROS AND CONS OF PRIVATE HOMESCHOOL OPTIONS IN CALIFORNIA

VERY IMPORTANT

Whichever private homeschool option you choose, find community. Fellow supportive, like-minded friends make homeschooling fun and rewarding. Visit CHEA's directory and connect with homeschool groups and resources in your area. cheaofca.org/directory

Private School Satellite Program (PSP)

ADVANTAGES

- Parent does not have to interact with the state, therefore neither the state nor local school district has information about the child's school or location where the education is taking place.
- Many PSP's offer help for parents educating their children beyond the simple filing of the private school affidavit by keeping attendance and other records. For example, staff may offer expertise in specific areas that address education problems that arise with students.
- Diploma issued might have more credibility.
- Might be able to participate in California CIF sports competition at the high school level.

DISADVANTAGES

- Parents will generally have to pay for these services.
- Parents are under the authority of the PSP as it relates to their child's education.

Degrees of Flexibility in California School Options

PUBLIC CAMPUS SCHOOL

CAMPUS CHARTER SCHOOL

PRIVATE CAMPUS SCHOOL

SINGLE-FAMILY PRIVATE HOMESCHOOL

More Restrictive

More Flexible

PUBLIC SCHOOL INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM (ISP)

AT-HOME CHARTER SCHOOL

PRIVATE SCHOOL SATELLITE PROGRAM (PSP)

(916) 786-3523 | www.fpmca.org | P.O. Box 730, Lincoln, CA 95648
April 2022

PART 5



ABOUT FPM AND OTHER STATE GROUPS



About Family Protection Ministries

MISSION

Defending the freedom of parents to train, educate and care for their children privately, without governmental interference. Working to detect, analyze, monitor, and intervene in all legislation affecting the legality of private home education in California since 1986.

HISTORY

In 1986, Christian Home Educators Association of California (CHEA) attorney Michael Smith, now President Emeritus of the Home School Legal

Defense Association (HSLDA), and others determined that California needed a full-time person to assure that state laws protect the God-given and constitutional rights of parents to direct the education and care of their children. CHEA, HSLDA, and others asked Roy Hanson to serve full time in this capacity in California. Roy established Family Protection Ministries (FPM) in 1986 to accomplish this mission and served as the full-time Executive Director. Roy (now retired) was joined by Jim Davis (now retired) in 1994 and Nathan Pierce in 2002. Today, FPM continues to address legislation that would impact homeschooling and families under the leadership of Nathan Pierce.

Each year, new bills threatening private home education, private schools, and parental rights are introduced. Family Protection Ministries, continues to monitor-the thousands of pieces of legislation introduced or amended throughout each two-year session. Every day, we work to identify and respond to any legislation that could affect private homeschooling or any associated parental rights.

FPM's strategic leadership has been vital to stopping or amending dozens of damaging bills. Some of the dangerous proposals that have been stopped include: criminalizing homeschooling, defining educational neglect and truancy as child abuse (which could have been used against homeschoolers), statewide daytime curfews, mandatory government home visits of all infants and toddlers, mandatory psychiatric examinations for all citizens every three years, and mandatory home inspections of private homeschoolers' homes. The efforts of FPM have also been critical in passing positive legislation protecting parental rights (for example, excluding spankings in the definition of child abuse, reducing the absolute immunity of social workers in order to protect innocent parents from false accusations of child abuse, and requiring CPS social workers

performing an investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect to advise the individual of the allegations against him).

DUTIES OF FPM

1. Acting as a central clearinghouse for information on California state legal/legislative status and action
2. Analyzing the thousands of bills introduced in the legislature and tracking dozens of state (and federal) legislative proposals each year
3. Advocacy in support, opposition or modification of specific legislation
4. Sending regular Legislative Updates & Alerts to supporters and homeschool leaders both by mail and email
5. Writing position papers based on sound legal research and a Biblical worldview
6. Building positive relationships with legislators and education officials
7. Serving as a liaison to CHEA, HSLDA, and other homeschool groups, private school organizations and parental rights groups
8. Serving the Lord Jesus Christ and glorifying Him by serving you and others

COORDINATION

Family Protection Ministries performs the critical task of coordinating with other groups across the state and nation to ensure a united approach to legislation affecting parental rights, religious freedoms, and private home education. A premature or wrong approach in the legislative arena, by even a single well-meaning person or group, could make life very difficult for most of us.

BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Nathan Pierce – Executive Director

Nathan Pierce began working at Family Protection Ministries (FPM) in 2002 and currently serves as Executive Director. He has over 20 years of experience doing advocacy work at the State Capitol. His role at FPM includes screening the thousands of bills that pour into the California Legislature each year, closely watching for any that could harm our freedoms as parents and alerting parents to contact their legislators. He works behind the scenes at the State Capitol, meeting with legislators and staff as well as testifying in committees to advocate on behalf of homeschoolers. Nathan values the importance of evaluating all things from an intentionally biblical worldview and works every day to maintain our freedom to do so.

Nathan was homeschooled through high school and received a B.A. in Political Studies from The Master’s College. Nathan and his wife Betsy were married in 2004 and homeschool their 8 children. In 2018, Nathan received the Chris Klicka award for legislative work from HSLDA.

Roy Hanson – Founder Emeritus

Roy and his wife Debra were married in 1972. They educated their children at home through high school. Roy holds a master’s degree in public policy and has many years of experience in legislative analysis and action. Before working in behalf of California homeschoolers full-time, he was the Director of the Public Policy Resource Center in Southern California (‘81-‘86). Prior to that, Roy served on the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin (‘77 to ‘81). Roy founded FPM in 1986 and has since retired.

MINISTRY SUPPORT

Family Protection Ministries (FPM) is the only full-time organization working at the state capitol monitoring all legislative and administrative actions and advocating on behalf of private home educators and parents. FPM is totally dependent upon home educators' regular financial support for 100% of salary and expense needs. To continue serving you by defending the educational and parental freedoms of home educators, FPM needs your financial support. This ministry has a critical need for additional monthly support for salary and ministry/office operating expenses. Please prayerfully consider being part of our team!

EXAMPLES OF MAJOR VICTORIES IN CALIFORNIA

Family Protection Ministries (FPM) found and defeated all legislative proposals to criminalize private homeschooling before they could be introduced as bills, starting with our first battle in 1986. The categories and lists below are not exhaustive but do show a great number of bills that we have fought for or against over our time serving here in California.

Private Education

AB 452 (2021) amended! Would have created a notification system ensuring every parent, including private homeschool parents, was informed of laws regarding safe firearm storage. The bill also rewrote private school law to require each homeschool family to report to the Superintendent of Education and opened the door to future new burdensome requirements.

SB 2 (2019) amended and defeated! Would have required homeschoolers to submit meticulous student achievement information to the state. Our approved amendment language protected private homeschools from this invasive and burdensome bill.

SB 541 (2019) amended! Would have regulated most Private School Satellite Programs (PSPs) by requiring them to conduct a lockdown drill at least once per school year.

AB 2756 (2018) defeated! Would require annual fire inspections of private homeschoolers' residences without a warrant or reasonable cause. Also would require private homeschools to choose from a list of options that best described their school when filing the Private School Affidavit (PSA) in October each year.

AB 2926 (2018) defeated! Would have likely resulted in the loss of parental authority over curriculum choices and regulations making private home-schooling virtually impossible for most parents.

AB 424 (2003) & AB 978 (1995) defeated! Would repeal and rewrite the entire Education Code, including every law protecting all private campus-based schools and private homeschools.

AB 1663 (2007) & AB 1841 (2010) passed! Private homeschoolers may opt their child out of the public school's special education evaluations and services.

AB 1799 (2012) Signed by Governor! Required a pupil's records to be transferred to a new school within 10 days, so that homeschooling parents can get their child's records from their previous school.

SB 650 (1999), AB 1151 (1997), & AB 2117 (1996) defeated! Would have implemented a statewide daytime curfew for minors.

AB 66 (2009) passed! Made it easier for homeschoolers to get work permits.

Truancy

AB 2855 (2004) amended to protect the requirement that school officials notify and work with parents of children suspected of truancy. This allows HSLDA to resolve homeschooling issues out of court.

SB 1317 (2010) defeated! On allegations of truancy, homeschoolers would be referred directly to the district attorney and charged with a crime resulting in fines up to \$2,000 and up to one year in jail.

AB 2605 (1994) passed! Prohibits a School Attendance Review Board from issuing subpoenas to parents of an alleged truant if the alleged truant is enrolled in a private school, including all private homeschools.

Early Childhood Education

SB 70 (2021), SB 1153 (2020), AB 713 (2016), AB 1444 (2014), AB 1772 (2012), AB 2203 (2012), AB 1236 (2007), SB 7 (2003), AB 56 (2003), SB 550 (2003), AB 634 (2001), AB 25 (1998), & SB 893 (1997) defeated! Would have made kindergarten mandatory in private schools.

AB 712 (2003), AB 56 (2003), SB 277 (1999), AB 2332 (1998), & SB 432 (2003) defeated! Would have implemented universal preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds.

Parental Rights

SB 1173 (1999) defeated! Would give any extended family member or unrelated person the right to petition a court for visitation rights of your children without your parental consent or supervision.

AB 2943 (2008) & AB 755 (2007) defeated! Would criminalize spanking (prison time and loss of children).

AB 2749 (2004) passed! Protects parental constitutional rights by requiring that CPS social workers: 1) advise individuals of allegations against them; and 2) to adhere to the 4th Amendment of the Constitution.

AB 1355 (1995) passed! Reduced the immunity of social workers from absolute to qualified. Social workers are now liable for unlawful acts committed against parents during an investigation of alleged child abuse.

Medical Freedom

SB 276 (1999) defeated! Would have required mandatory mental health exams of all California residents every 3 years.

AB 2020 (2000) defeated! Coercively requiring all parents to enroll their newborn in a government-controlled health care program before releasing the newborn from the hospital to go home with its parents.

SB 765 (2001) & AB 1654 (1993) defeated! Newborns discharged from hospital only after “at-risk factors” screening followed up with intrusive home visits.

SB 840 (2005 & 2007), SB 810 (2009 & 2011), AB 1670 (2005), and others – defeated! Socialized Medicine – total government control over all health care, including life and death decisions.

AB 206 (2003) & AB 1763 (2002) defeated! State & local health officials given full control over all families, and medical professionals during health emergencies, including separating children from their parents.

Vaccines

SB 866 (2022) defeated! Aimed to allow minors aged 12 and older (later amended to 15 and older) to consent to vaccination without parental knowledge or consent, which would have eroded parental authority and responsibility over their children’s health and given it to the child and government.

SB 277 (2015) amended! Removed personal beliefs exemption to school-required vaccines. Our approved amendments removed private homeschool pupils from being required to receive mandated vaccines.

Child Abuse

AB 1737 (2022) defeated! Redefined “camps” and children’s programs to very likely include homeschool co-ops. Required extensive child abuse reporting training and more administrative work and paperwork for all adult volunteers and workers at the program’s own expense, which would have prevented many homeschool co-ops from operating.

AB 717 (2011) passed! Protects the rights of parents falsely accused of child abuse. Ensures their right to a due process hearing and removes their names from the state’s Child Abuse Central Index.

SB 243 (1987) passed! Defined “child abuse” to exclude a reasonable spanking to the buttocks.

AB 2380 (2010) & AB 7 (1989) defeated! “Hearsay” would be a basis for reporting child abuse – causing a huge increase in false allegations of child abuse against innocent parents, including homeschool parents.

SB 950 (2003) defeated! “Truancy” – new category of child abuse and neglect. Homeschoolers could have been investigated by social workers on erroneous allegations of child abuse and neglect.

AB 102 (2001) defeated! “Endangering emotional well-being” – new vague category of child abuse.

AB 804 (1999) defeated! “Educational neglect” would be a new category of child abuse and neglect. Homeschooling could have been investigated by social workers on erroneous allegations of child neglect.

Home Privacy

SB 1562 (2004) defeated & AB 10 (2017) passed with our amendments! Coercive inspection of homeschoolers’ bathrooms (a privacy invasion).

AB 1256 passed with our amendments (2013) Amended to make clear that homeowners could not be sued for blocking the entrance of an uninvited intruder into their home.

Other Regulations

SB 1262 (2004) defeated! All nonprofit organizations including most homeschool organizations would have been subject to a nightmare of complex, vague, and extremely costly reporting requirements.

AB 241 (2013) & AB 889 (2011) defeated! Would have added new oppressive and costly regulations, fees, and paperwork effectively ending babysitting by anyone over 17.

AB 1737 (2022) defeated! Would have put onerous requirements on a broadly defined category of children’s camps, making most homeschool

co-ops and even homeschool neighborhood meet-ups impossible to conduct in compliance with the proposed requirements.

In the Courts

FPM coordinated with state homeschool organizations, ensuring cooperation in addressing all proposed legislative activity regarding the 2008 homeschool appellate court decision (In Re Jonathan L.) which had initially declared private homeschooling illegal, but was later reversed.

Other Government Agencies

FPM works diligently with the Department of Education; helping them maintain a **neutral position on home-based private schools**, including filing the affidavit online. We also respond to the increasing regulations, rules, and orders from the Governor's Office, California Department of Public Health, and any other relevant government agencies. In cooperation with HSLDA, CHEA, and other groups, we continue making personal contacts, working to secure a better relationship with the Department of Education.

FPM works closely with the attorneys at HSLDA and also serves as CHEA's legislative consultant. FPM works in teamwork with California's private homeschooling community, including families, statewide organizations, and local and regional support groups and private school PSP programs. We thank God for all the vital help we receive from all who support FPM with prayers, donations, and calling legislators, all of which make the work of this ministry possible.

We give Jesus Christ Our Lord all the glory for these great victories!

FPM's 2018 Victories: AB 2756 & AB 2926 Summary Report

The following report is a summary of two bills FPM worked on in 2018. This is taken from a newsletter mailed on July 11th, 2018.

We are very thankful for the tremendous victories that God gave us this year with the defeat of both AB 2756 and AB 2926.



Homeschoolers filling the hearing room.

Our experienced Legislative Liaison, Nathan Pierce, and part-time FPM staff were tracking thousands of bills daily so that we might know at the earliest possible time of all bills threatening homeschoolers' freedoms. When the Turpin family case became a major item in California and national media in January, we anticipated new legislation that aimed to further regulate private homeschooling. We were aware of and already working on this issue before most people had ever heard of it. In preparation, we researched and tracked legislation, personally contacted legislators, their staff and other key capitol staff, and watched for comments in the news from the representatives who said they would introduce legislation to regulate homeschooling. We also stayed informed on the rest of the California Legislature by monitoring (among other things) the websites, Twitter feeds, press releases, and legislation of every California state legislator.

First, as introduced, AB 2756 required home fire inspections of private homeschoolers' residences at least once a year – which we were able to get the author to drop before the hearing. Second, AB 2756 also included a provision that would have separated private home-based schools from private campus schools with the stated intent of adding future regulations to home-based private schools. It was this second provision that was in question at the April 25th hearing.

As bad as AB 2756 was, AB 2926 was the most potentially destructive bill to homeschooling this year. This amendment would have created a committee to consider further regulations on private homeschoolers, including requiring certified teachers (i.e., credentialed parents) for private homeschools. The passage of AB 2926 could have easily resulted in: (1) private homeschooling being separated from the current private school exemption; (2) private homeschooling being further regulated; (3) regulations making private homeschooling virtually impossible for most

parents; (4) the elimination of 30 years of work done by FPM in teamwork with you to protect the right to privately home educate; (5) the loss of the exclusion from vaccination requirements; and (6) losing the due process protections for all private homeschools. We are thankful that the opposition to AB 2926 was so great that the author pulled the bill from its assigned hearing and decided not to attempt to push it forward.



FPM's Nathan Pierce testifying on AB 2756.

In the months that followed, Nathan met with the staff of the authors of AB 2756 and AB 2926, and other Assembly members numerous times to ask them questions, give them information, and explain what their bills would and would not do in hopes of convincing the authors to withdraw their bills. Nathan provided a friendly and reassuring face that represented the private homeschooling community and our case that California homeschoolers do not need to be regulated further. Because of these regular visits, and others over the past 15 years, Nathan is known more and more as the familiar face at the Capitol that they trust to give them the facts about private homeschooling and any related legislation.

The week before the hearing, Nathan Pierce took a group of local homeschool families to the Capitol to visit each legislator who would be in

the committee hearing for AB 2756. These families impressed the legislative staff with their professionalism, knowledge about the bill, and the quality of the informational materials they brought. Even through the toughest weeks leading up to the hearing, God was already showing us what a great victory He could bring about.

THE DAY OF THE HEARING, APRIL 25TH, 2018

Homeschool families started lining up at the entrance of the hearing room at 7:30 a.m., even though it did not open for seating until 1 p.m. At first there were just a few but they just kept coming. It was a long morning, waiting in the hallways all those hours, but our anticipation of a possible positive outcome later that day combined with the immovable, faithful parents and students surrounding us (and wrapping around the hallways down to the next floor) kept everyone's spirits high and hopeful.

The Assembly Education Committee took up their Special Order of Business scheduled for 1:30 p.m. – AB 2756. Medina presented his bill, the supporting key witnesses gave their testimonies, and then the two allowed opposing key witnesses, including Nathan Pierce of FPM, gave their allotted 2-minute testimonies. Next, about 2,000 parents and children lined up at the microphones to state their names and their opposition.

As the opposition testimonies finally concluded, Education Committee Chairman O'Donnell said, "Thank you Mr. Medina. And for those who came today, thank you for being part of the process. Thank you for one of the longer hearings I have participated in. Period. Ever."

As the committee did not have a quorum to vote right after the testimonies, Nathan stayed another three hours to observe the conclusion and answer any questions from any committee member about the bill. At about 8 p.m., Chairman O'Donnell asked for a motion on AB 2756 (a motion and a second are required to start taking a vote on a bill). The members

had been making motions all afternoon and evening on various bills, and yet when Assemblyman O'Donnell asked for a motion on AB 2756, he had to ask a second time. After an uncomfortable silence he said, "We do not have a motion, so the file item number one [AB 2756] fails." Not one of the committee members wanted to even hint that they were supportive of AB 2756 by making a motion to vote on the bill.

AFTER THE HEARING

After the hearing ended, Assemblyman Kevin Kiley, the Vice Chairman of the committee, personally congratulated Nathan, saying, "That was amazing, and that turnout was very impressive. I've been having people tell me this afternoon that in their 30 years in the California Legislature they have never seen something like this. They have never seen so many people come down and testify on one bill."

The hearing room's sergeant, who oversaw the room's security that day, walked Nathan out since he was the last one in the room and needed to lock up. As he did so, he mentioned to Nathan that he should be very proud of the victory we had achieved that day, but not just because of the bill dying. He told Nathan that he should be proud of his people who came out to participate. He said, "Your people were very calm and handled themselves very well and very professionally. You've got great people. The members will not easily forget what happened here today."

CONCLUSION

We praise God for this victory and for using this trial to strengthen our homeschool communities and raise our voice in unison! We are very thankful for California homeschoolers and all who helped with our efforts to oppose AB 2756 and AB 2926. Thank you to all those who made calls,

wrote letters, spread the word, and/or showed up to the capitol on the hearing day.

However, despite our great victory on April 25th, our opponents will continue to reintroduce bills like AB 2756 and AB 2926. As mentioned by Assemblyman Medina in his conclusion, legislation may come back in a different form. It is likely that the next attack will be better thought-out and carefully planned. They don't give up. We can't give up either!

You have a voice that can be heard when spoken as one. However, the effectiveness of your calls and letters often hinges upon the legislator understanding the wording of proposed bills in the context of current law and practice. This is why it is critical that we (FPM) are always equipped to write, distribute, and explain our detailed analyses to the legislators at the best time. Defending our liberties is truly a teamwork effort with you.



RESOURCES

Statewide Resources for California Homeschoolers

HOME SCHOOL LEGAL DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (HSLDA)

Through the years, HSLDA's primary goal has remained the same—to bring together a large number of



homeschooling families so that each can have a low-cost method of obtaining quality legal defense. Today, HSLDA gives tens of thousands of families the freedom to homeschool without having to face legal threats alone. Through many families sticking together, they have been able to keep the cost of a year's membership close to the rate that a family would have to pay for an hour of an attorney's time almost anywhere else.

HSLDA is the only full-time attorney-staffed organization that assures you of immediate and thorough representation by an attorney with expertise in this area of law from the very beginning of any legal challenges to your home education. There is no in-state or out-of-state school or educational program available to private California homeschoolers that offers absolute legal protection. There are no other legal protection

programs or plans which guarantee expert attorney consultation and representation to families for all legal contacts related to their home education like HSLDA does. HSLDA can answer legal compliance questions for their members. HSLDA has been at the center of defending our freedom to homeschool in California. It is the individual family that will be challenged by school and other authorities and not the private school PSP administrator. Each family must take the responsibility to secure the best legal protection available.

Join HSLDA today! Discount memberships are available. Join before beginning your home education and before withdrawing your child from another school. It is best to withdraw during summer. You must join before receiving a legal challenge to your homeschooling, so join now by contacting HSLDA.

(540) 338-5600

www.hsllda.org

P.O. Box 3000

Purcellville, VA 20134



**CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
(CHEA)**

CHEA is a non-profit ministry established in 1982 to provide information, support, and training to the home education community throughout the state and advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by promoting private Christian home education as an outstanding educational opportunity. They provide information, training and support to the homeschool community and protect the God-given right of parents to direct the education and training of their children, to the glory of God.

CHEA labors year round on behalf of homeschoolers by hosting an Annual Convention each year; co-sponsoring many other events throughout the state; providing an extensive website that offers news, information, articles, and many resources including how to get started and teaching high school manuals; providing Membership opportunities such as discounts; protecting your rights through partnering with Family Protection Ministries (legislative consultants) and Home School Legal Defense Association; and partnering with other national organizations such as The Alliance of Home Education Leadership and American Home Education and Discipleship (AHEAD) Conferences.

A basic CHEA membership gives you a discount on HSLDA membership and 10% savings on materials at the CHEA bookstore, among other benefits. There are also three additional tiers of membership with even more benefits for members.

For more homeschool information, and referrals to local support groups near you, contact CHEA at www.cheaofca.org or call (562) 864-2432.

NATIONAL HOME EDUCATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

NHERI conducts and collects research about homeschooling (home-based education, home schooling), and publishes the research journal



NHERI
National Home Education Research Institute

called the Home School Researcher. The institute has hundreds of research works documented and catalogued on home schooling, many of which were done by NHERI. Simply put, NHERI specializes in homeschool research, facts, statistics, scholarly articles, and information.

NHERI exists to do the following things:

- To research, study, and understand those who teach their children at home;
- To publish the peer-reviewed research journal called the Home School Researcher, which chronicles the current research being done about home schooling;
- To speak to the media, legislators, and national organizations about the home schooling movement, showing factual evidence-based research about those who teach their children at home;
- To work with legislators on issues related to parental rights and children's rights, freedom that parents—internationally and globally—have to teach their children at home, and homeschoolers coordinating with local school officials.
- To serve as conference speakers and teachers for groups interested in home schooling.

Services that NHERI provides on a regular basis include:

- Speaking to homeschooling and other types of conferences about homeschool research;
- Giving seminars and lectures on how to teach children at home;
- Doing state-, national-level, and international-level research about the home schooling community; and
- Speaking to the media (television, radio, newspaper, etc.) about homeschooling issues.
- Providing referrals to expert witness services in courts and legislatures.

Brian D. Ray, Ph.D. and others founded the institute in 1990 as a 501(c)3 non-profit research organization and is the president of the institute. He holds his Ph.D. in science education from Oregon State University, his M.S. in zoology from Ohio University, and his B.S. in biology from the University of Puget Sound. Dr. Ray has been a middle school and high school classroom teacher in both public and private schools, an undergraduate college professor, and a university professor at the graduate level. He is a leading international expert with regard to homeschool (home school, home education) research. Dr. Ray executes and publishes research, speaks to the public, testifies before legislators, and serves as an expert witness in courts.

For more information about NHERI's services, to subscribe to the Home School Researcher journal, to get started in your own homeschooling, or if you would like to obtain information about homeschool research, you may contact the institute at www.nheri.org or by calling (503) 364-1490.

Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.



President of National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI), Editor-in-Chief, Home School Researcher (peer-reviewed journal)

Research and personal email: bray@nheri.org

Support this one-of-kind think tank, NHERI, who supports the general public and the entire homeschool community. Mail a check (100% of gift goes to NHERI) or donate online at www.nheri.org/donate



APPENDIX

Glossary

GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR LEGISLATIVE (BILL) TYPES

A	Assembly
ACA	Assembly Constitutional Amendment
ACR	Assembly Concurrent Resolution
AJR	Assembly Joint Resolution
EO	Executive Order
GRP	Governors Reorganization Plan
HR	House Resolution
PA	Preprint Assembly
PACA	Preprint Assembly Constitutional Amendment
PACR	Preprint Assembly Concurrent Resolution
PAJR	Preprint Assembly Joint Resolution
PS	Preprint Senate
PSCA	Preprint Senate Constitutional Amendment
PSCR	Preprint Senate Concurrent Resolution
PSJR	Preprint Senate Joint Resolution

PSR	Preprint Senate Resolution
S	Senate
SCA	Senate Constitutional Amendment
SCR	Senate Concurrent Resolution
SJR	Senate Joint Resolution
SR	Senate Resolution
V	Ballot Measure

Source: Adapted from "Legislative Types," State Net®. Resources, California State Resources.

GLOSSARY OF LEGISLATIVE TERMS

For a full list, go to the Glossary of Legislative Terms at www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/glossaryTemplate.xhtml.

AB: When a bill number begins with "AB" it means it is an Assembly Bill and a state-level bill. The other type of state-level bill begins with "SB", meaning Senate Bill. Federal bills begin with either "S." or "H.R."

ALERT: A communication from Roy Hanson and Nathan Pierce, usually made via Email Alerts about an impending piece of legislation which requires immediate contact with our legislators. Homeschooling leaders, pastors, or supporters of FPM each calendar year receive these Email Alerts complimentary.

AMENDMENT: An addition or change in the language of a bill, or an addition or change in the language of another amendment.

ASSEMBLY: The 80 members of one of the two houses of our state legislature. The other house is the State Senate.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER: This is the correct term to use in describing or addressing our elected representatives to the State Assembly.

BILL: Legislation proposed to become law. It is identified with a number, title, and author. Bill numbers identify what branch of the legislature the author is part of. Bills at the state level begin with either "SB" (for Senate Bill) or "AB" (for Assembly Bill.) Bills at the federal level begin with either "S." (for Senate) or "H.R." (for House of Representatives.)

CALIFORNIA ROSTER: This roster list the current, complete address and phone information for state representatives. Refer to the California Roster on the California Secretary of State's website: www.sos.ca.gov/administration/california-roster

The California Roster also lists contact information on state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions.

CHAIRMAN/WOMAN: He or she heads the committee, i.e. Public Safety Committee. The chairman/woman wields an enormous amount of influence on the committee vote and whether a bill will be heard or be put in "suspense" which usually means it dies. The chairman is appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly (for Assembly committees) or the President (pro Tempore) of the Senate (for Senate committees.)

COMMISSIONS, BOARDS & DEPARTMENTS: In the state government, they are appointed by the governor and are not accountable to the voting public.

COMMITTEE: All proposed legislation must pass through at least one policy committee before it can be voted on by each house on the "floor" of the legislature. All bills which affect the budget and government expenditures must also go through a fiscal committee. Legislators are assigned to committees by the Speaker of the Assembly or by the President of the Senate. Committee assignments can be found at the following:

Assembly Committees: www.assembly.ca.gov/committees

Senate Committees: www.senate.ca.gov/committees

The committee hearings are the only public forum for citizen testimony. This is where most bills live or die.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE: This is a small group from the State Assembly and the State Senate that confers to negotiate differences in the language of a bill over which the two houses disagree. If both houses agree on the negotiated language, the bill goes to the governor. If they cannot arrive at an agreement, the bill dies. The process is the same on the federal level.

CONGRESS: This is the federal body of elected officials that passes federal laws. It is comprised of U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives. Our state equivalent is the State Legislature, comprised of State Senators and State Assembly Members.

CONGRESSMAN: A title used to describe a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The title "Representative" (capitalized) may also be used. "Representative" is the usual title used today because it can more easily fit either a man or a woman.

CONSULTANTS: These individuals are hired by the chairmen of the committees. For example, in the Education Committee, the consultants do research on the bills assigned to the committee, receive position letters from organizations and citizens supporting or opposing a bill, and advise the members of the committee on the pros and cons and usually on how to vote.

DISTRICT: The state is divided into 40 State Senate districts and 80 State Assembly districts for state-level representation. California is divided into 53 Congressional districts for federal-level representation. The district boundaries are reset every 10 years. Boundaries for each type of district overlap those of the other types.

DISTRICT OFFICE: The District Office is the office of a legislator in his or her district. This is where most constituent communication should be directed. Most state legislators return to their district office on Fridays.

FLOOR: When a vote is "on the floor" it means that it is presented for vote by the entire State Senate or Assembly (at the state level), or by the entire U.S. Senate or House of Representatives (at the federal level.) In contrast, a committee vote takes place in a committee hearing, with votes taken only from the members of the committee.

H.R.: If a bill number begins with "H.R.", it means it is a House of Representatives bill at the federal level. The other type of federal bill begins with "S." State bills begin with "AB" or "SB."

LEGISLATION: If it has not yet been approved, proposed legislation is referred to as a bill. It must go through many steps before it is passed into law. If it fails at any one of the steps, the legislation is dead. If it passes through each and every step successfully, it becomes a statute (i.e., a law.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT OR STAFFER: L.A.'s are employed by elected officials at the Capitol and District Offices. They are civil servants and are an extension of the legislator to the constituents and public at large. In many offices in the Capitol, they have enormous influence.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL: These are attorneys hired by the state to help legislators draft bills so the language won't violate current law or protection by the Constitution.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST: This is a condensed version of a bill written in layman's language. It appears in the first section of each bill and summarizes how the language in the bill will affect current law.

LEGISLATOR: This term applies to our elected federal and state officials who draft and vote on legislation. It could mean a U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, State Senator, or Assembly Member.

NVR: This is an abbreviation for “No Vote Recorded”. This means that either a voting member was not present, or they abstained from voting on an issue.

REPRESENTATIVE: The term "representative", may apply to any of our elected officials, at both the state and federal level, since their job is to "represent" their constituents. When the term is capitalized: "Representative," it refers specifically to a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

S.: When a bill number begins with the letter "S.," it means the bill is a U.S. Senate bill at the federal level. "SB" also means Senate Bill, but "SB" is used for bills at the state level. The other type of federal bill begins with "H.R."

SB: When a bill number begins with "SB" it means it is a Senate Bill and is a state-level bill. The other type of state-level bill begins with "AB", meaning Assembly Bill. Federal bills begin with either "S." or "H.R."

SENATOR: This is the correct title for either a State Senator or a U.S. Senator, although the two positions are different. State Senators are elected to the California State Legislature, where they make state laws. U.S. Senators are elected to Congress, where they make federal laws.

SPOT BILL: This is a term commonly used to refer to a bill that does not yet contain any legal language. Most spot bills are limited to “intent language” while the author works with sponsors to smooth out the official language of the bill. Intent language will often be prefaced by “It is the intent of the Legislature to...”.

STATE LEGISLATURE: The body of officials elected by citizens of California to make state laws. The State Legislature is divided into two houses: the State Senate and the State Assembly.

STATE SENATE: The 40 members of one of the two houses of our California state legislature elected by the public. The other house is the State

Assembly. The State Senate is different from the U.S. Senate, which is part of Congress in Washington, D.C.

STATE SENATOR: This title may be used to describe or address a member of our State Senate.

TESTIMONY: Public opinion presented in person in front of the committee hearing a pending bill at the Capitol. Any private citizen of any age may testify in California's committee hearings.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: One of the two houses of Congress, operating at the federal level. California has 53 members of the House of Representatives. Each state has a different number, depending on the state's population; there are a total of 435 Representatives for the whole nation. Members of the House of Representatives are called either "Representatives" or "Congressmen," with the preferred title being "Representative." The other house of Congress is the U.S. Senate.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE: A member of the House of Representatives. In address, the "U.S." is dropped, for example, John Doe is a U.S. Representative, but we call him "Representative Doe."

U.S. SENATE: One of the two houses of Congress, operating at the federal level. Each state has two U.S. Senators, making a total of 100 U.S. Senators in Congress. The other house of Congress is the House of Representatives.

U.S. SENATOR: A member of the U.S. Senate.

VETO: This is a "no" vote from the governor or from the president on federal bills. At the state level, the governor's veto can be overridden with a 2/3 majority vote of the State Legislature.

My State Representatives

To obtain contact information of your state representatives,
go to www.fpmca.org/myrep.

My Assembly Member:	My Senator:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:
District Office Address:	District Office Address:
Capitol Office Address:	Capitol Office Address:

Become a Homeschool Advocate!

3 Simple Ways You Can Get Involved



Why Does Advocacy Matter?

A significant number of legislators and their aides have no idea how private homeschooling works, either practically or legally, or that there are homeschoolers in their districts.

We have developed a program called Advocacy from Home, where private homeschoolers are trained to advocate for our freedoms. This is done through homeschool families building a relationship with their state legislator and delivering a Homeschool Information packet at their district offices.

These visits go a long way toward helping them see that homeschoolers are good, law-abiding citizens who are living and working in their districts. The Homeschool Information packets help explain private home education as well as provide research showing that privately home-educated children do very well compared with students from the public schools.

How Can I Get Involved?

You can be an advocate for private home education! Here are 3 ways you can get involved:



Call: Sign up for our Email Alerts and get notified on when to call your state representatives!



Write: Compose a letter to your state legislators introducing yourself as a private homeschooler or about a specific bill.



Meet: Set up a short meeting, in-person or virtually, with your state representatives.

Get Started Today!

If you are interested in joining our mission, please let us know at www.fpmca.org/afhapp

We will supply you with what you need to start building relationships with your state legislators.

"I'm in!" ✓



Want to be notified about important legislation or when our next event will be? Subscribe to our emails by visiting our website and filling out our contact form at www.fpmca.org/contactus

FPM is 100% donor-funded. Thank you for your generosity over the last 35 years; we can't do this important work without your help. www.fpmca.org/donate